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17 January 1962

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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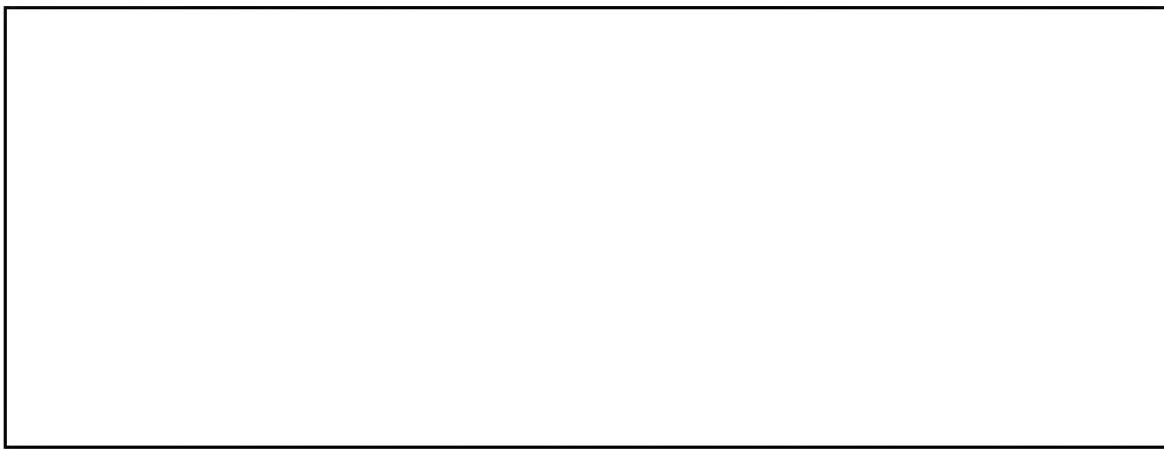
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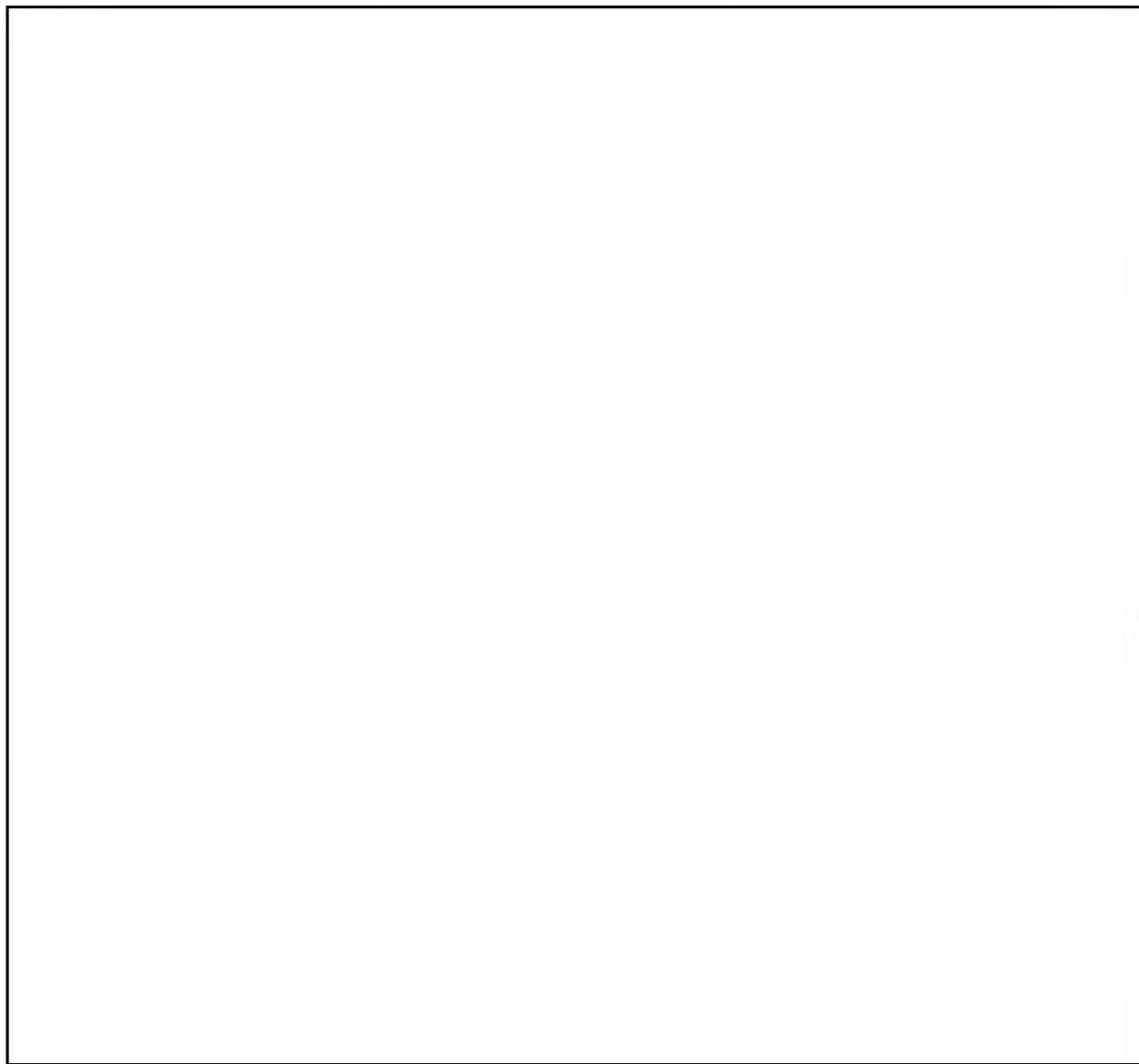


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DAILY BRIEF

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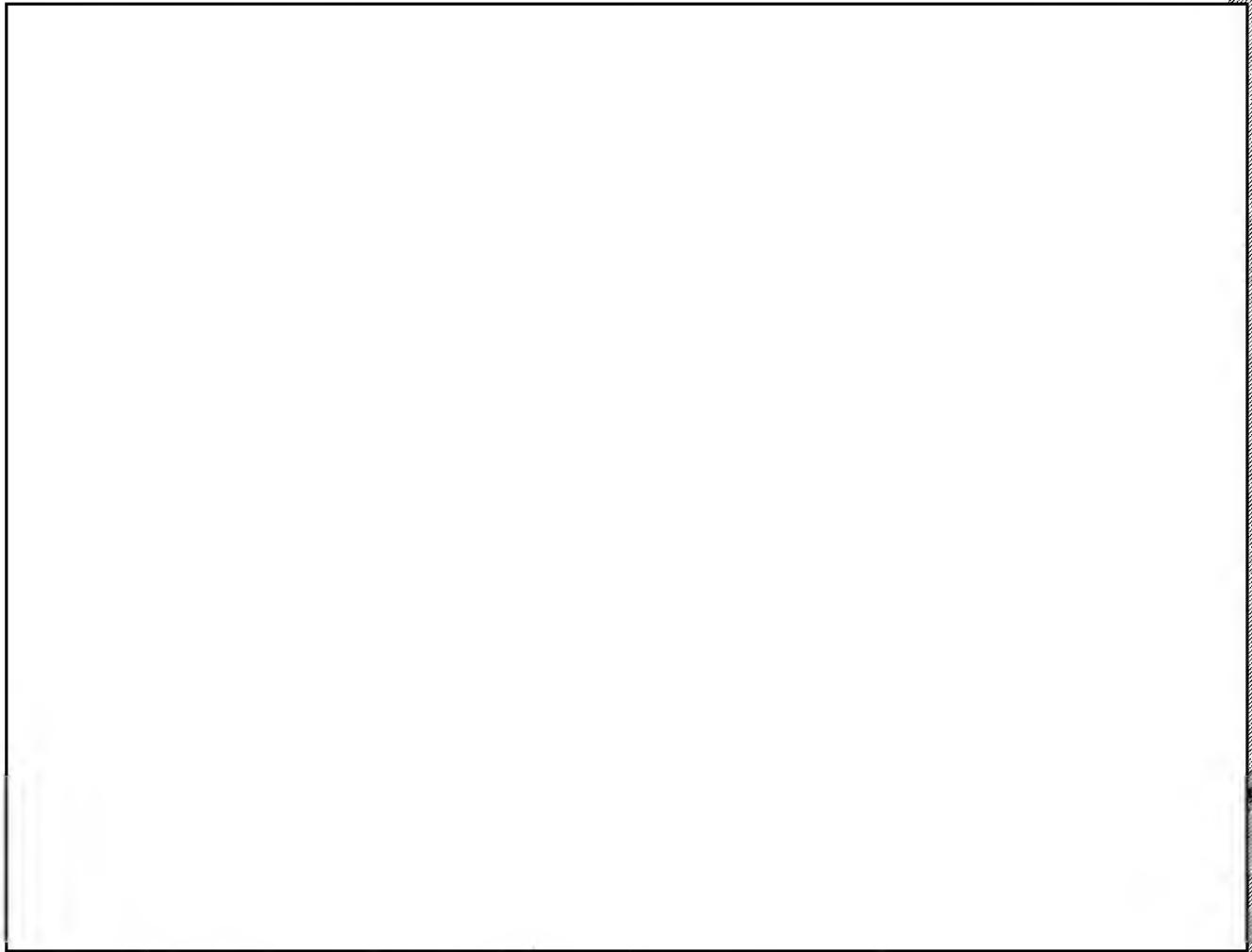


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*Ecuador: The determination of Ecuador's military chiefs and certain cabinet ministers to force a change in President Arosemena's pro-leftist, pro-Cuban policies apparently has neared the point of action. [redacted]

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[redacted] the heads of the three armed services, the foreign minister, defense minister, and other cabinet members have prepared an ultimatum to Arosemena--[redacted] it was scheduled for delivery yesterday--demanding a break in relations with Cuba, the removal of leftists from government positions, and other policy changes. If Arosemena refuses to

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comply, he reportedly will be ousted. According to a plan previously reported under consideration, Arosemena would be declared physically incapable of fulfilling his duties because of alcoholism, and would be replaced by his constitutional successor, Vice President Reinaldo Varea. Varea, a former military officer associated with several political movements and unsuccessful coups in the past, is considered a middle-of-the-road politician, generally friendly toward the US.

Popular disillusionment with Arosemena has mounted steadily since shortly after he took office this past November, and a change in government now would probably enjoy majority popular support. Indications of this are seen in the recent anti-Communist demonstrations in Quito and other cities, and in the growing public demand for action against Cuba. The armed forces are believed capable of handling the leftist-provoked outbreaks of violence likely to follow an Arosemena ouster.

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*Dominican Republic: (Information as of 0400 EST) A new seven-man civilian-military Council of State was installed late yesterday, replacing the 16-day-old completely civilian Council of State headed by President Joaquin Balaguer. Announcements from Santo Domingo state that Balaguer "resigned," but the circumstances of the change indicate that he and other council members were forced out by direct military pressure. The change in regime came as tensions mounted in the country yesterday following an afternoon incident when Dominican Air Force tank crews opened fire on a crowd--several of whom were killed and others wounded--which had assembled to hear demands by spokesmen of the National Civic Union (UCN) for the immediate resignation of Balaguer.

The four civilian members of the new Council--who include two from the old Council--are all believed to be pro-US political

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moderates. General Rafael Rodriguez Echevarria, who has been the dominant military figure in the country since last November, is not listed as a Council member, but is probably the man behind the government change. Rodriguez had recently claimed that the UCN, which was the most influential political group in the old Council, was coming under increasing Communist influence, and on 14 January he reportedly threatened a military takeover.

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UCN and other opposition elements are certain to react strongly to yesterday's events. The UCN has already labeled the change a coup d'état. Further violence is likely. [redacted]

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[redacted]

Dominican Republic (Information as of 0400 EST)

The announcements from Santo Domingo--which say the new Council will stay in office until February 1963--have not named anyone as head of the new Council of State. The two civilian holdovers from the old Council are Antonio Imbert and Luis Amiamo Tio, [redacted]

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[redacted] The other two civilians are Huberto Bogar and Armando Oscar Pacheo, both of whom held government posts under the late dictator.

The ranking military representative in the new Council is Rear Admiral Enrique Valdez Vidaurre, the Chief of Naval operations. Valdes was recently described as obsessed with the idea that there might be an attempt at a Communist takeover. The other two military members on the Council are Army Colonel Ney Rafeal Nivar Seixas and Air Force Major Welfredo Medina Antalio. The armed forces had been placed on an alert status early on 16 January, possibly in a move by General Rodriguez to prepare them for a possible takeover.

Spokesmen for the National Civic Union (UCN) have already claimed that all UCN members who are in government posts will resign. Some of them may refuse to do this, however; press reports quote the recently appointed Foreign Minister Antonio Bonillo Atiles, a prominent UCN member, as saying he has no present plans to quit.

Nonetheless it is probable that most Dominicans will regard the new regime as a military dictatorship and a regression toward Trujilloism. It is quite possible that the UCN will once again resort to a call for a general strike against the government. Communist sympathizers and pro-Castro elements in the extreme leftist 14 of June party would welcome any ensuing disorders as an opportunity for promoting anti-American sentiments and increasing their political strength. The dangers of further civilian violence may also increase the likelihood of plotting among military officers, a number of which are already known to be disgruntled with General Rodriguez because of his roughshod methods. [redacted]

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